DoD Natural Resources Policy Update

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Overview

- Policy
- Program Oversight
- Tools and Training
- Partnerships
- Program Awareness
- Advocacy
- Hot Issues

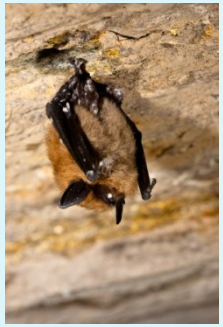
Policy

Formal DoD Policy Issuances

- Natural Resources Conservation Instruction, DoDI 4715.03
  - Improve the integration of mission and stewardship needs and the long-term health of installation ecosystems
  - **http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/471503p.pdf**
- Natural Resources Implementation Manual
  - General INRMP provisions
    - Coordination, review and public comment
    - Implementation and special management
    - Ecosystem-based management
  - Additional topics
    - Planning for Climate Change impacts
    - Feral animals
    - DoD Forestry Reserve Account eligibility criteria

White-nose Syndrome Policy Memo

- November 16, 2011
- Military Services encouraged to develop guidance
  - Integrate recommendations in the USFWS *National Plan*
  - Coordinate with other agencies regarding WNS reporting and the management of caves, mines, and other affected sites
  - Exchange up-to-date information with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state fish and wildlife agencies through annual INRMP reviews.
- USFWS Draft National Decontamination Protocol



Coordination with USFWS Draft Sikes Guidance

Key Issues

- Streamlined reviews
- USFWS input to annual Focus Area metrics
- Consistency of definitions across agencies
- Nature and timing of reviews for operation and effect
- How to address environmental contaminants

Migratory Bird Issues

- New Bald and Golden Eagle requirements?
- Revising the DoD-USFWS Migratory Bird MOU
- Integration with BASH

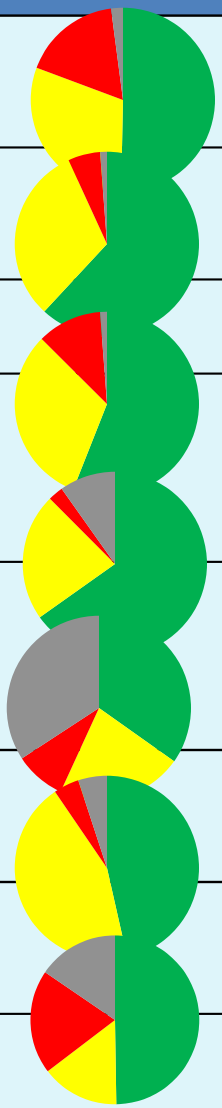
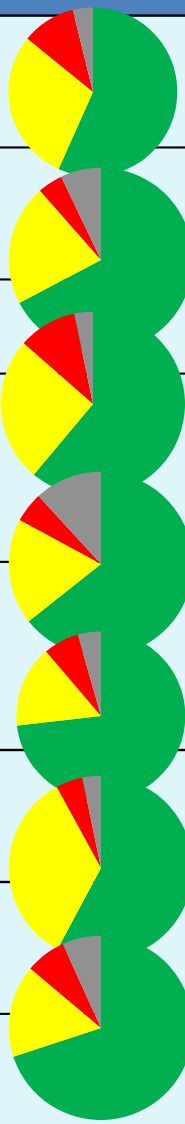
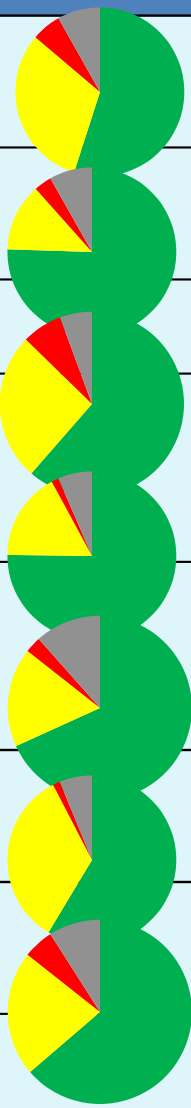
Sikes Amendments

- Part of FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act
  - Better Coverage of Military Installations
  - 39 ARNG installations added
  - Meet statutory definition of “military installation”
  - Streamlined funding for these state-owned lands
- Potential FY 2013 Amendments
  - Authority for Title II agencies (DOI, USDA) to count DoD conservation funds as part of their non-federal match
  - Authority for DoD, DOI, and USDA to more easily "pool and merge" funds to facilitate multi-agency, landscape-level projects with mutually reinforcing benefits

Program Oversight

EMR: INRMP STATUS

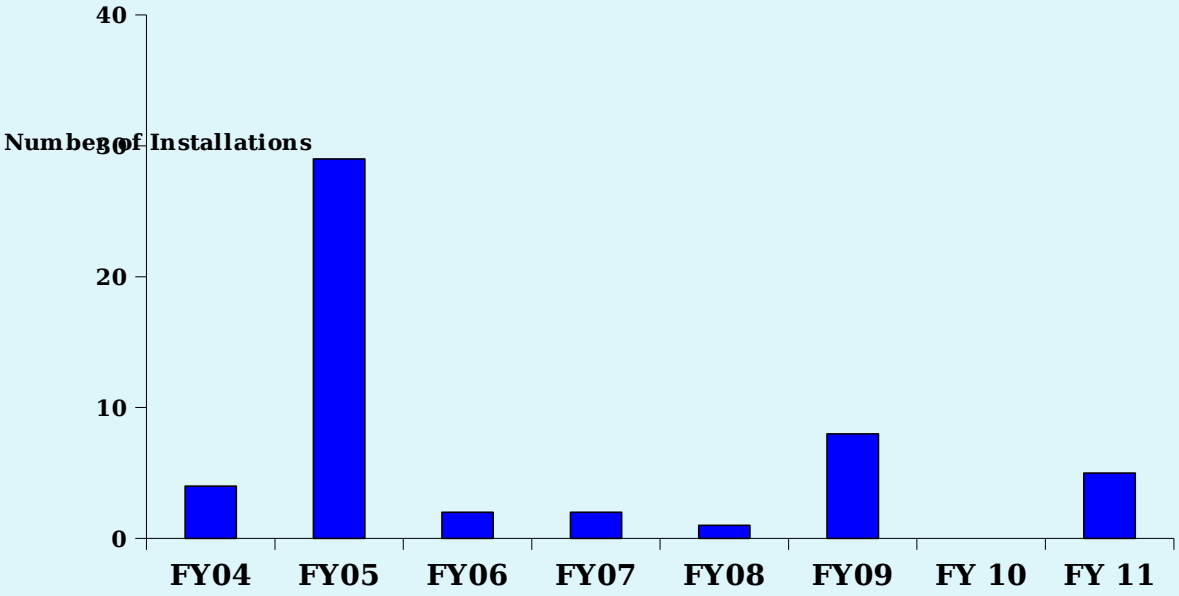
EMR: Natural Resources Focus Areas (DoD)

Focus Areas	FY09	FY10	FY11
INRMP Project Implementation			
Partnership Effectiveness			
Team Adequacy			
INRMP Impact on Installation Mission			
Listed Species and Critical Habitat			
Ecosystem Integrity			
Fish and Wildlife Management			

Metrics Next Steps

- Improved consistency in defining program health (R-Y-G)
- Shared understanding of each Military Service's
  - Evaluation criteria
  - Scoring system

Critical Habitat Designation Avoidance



INRMPs and Critical Habitat Exclusions

51 installations and satellites used INRMP exclusion: 4(a)(3)(B)

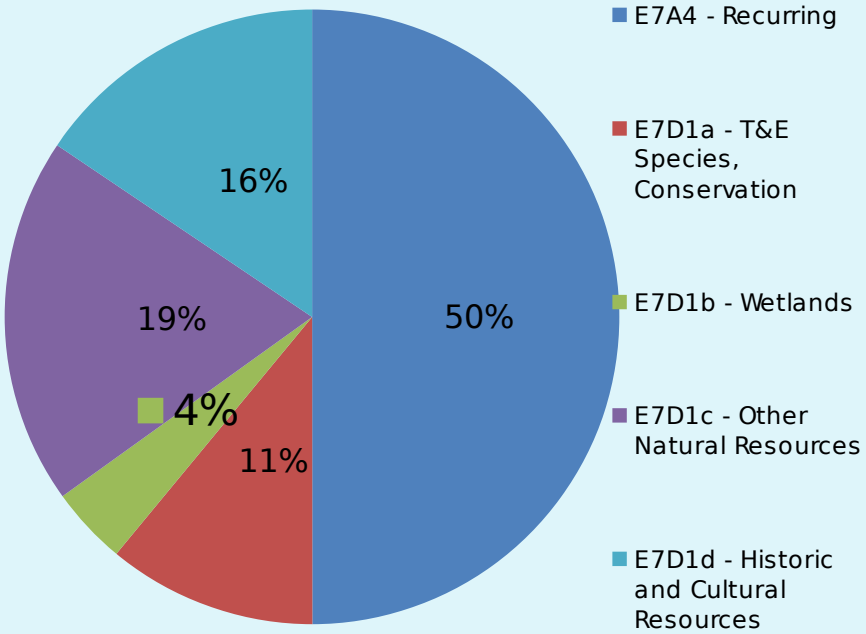
34 bases used readiness exclusion: 4(b)(2)

You must still meet your ESA requirements!

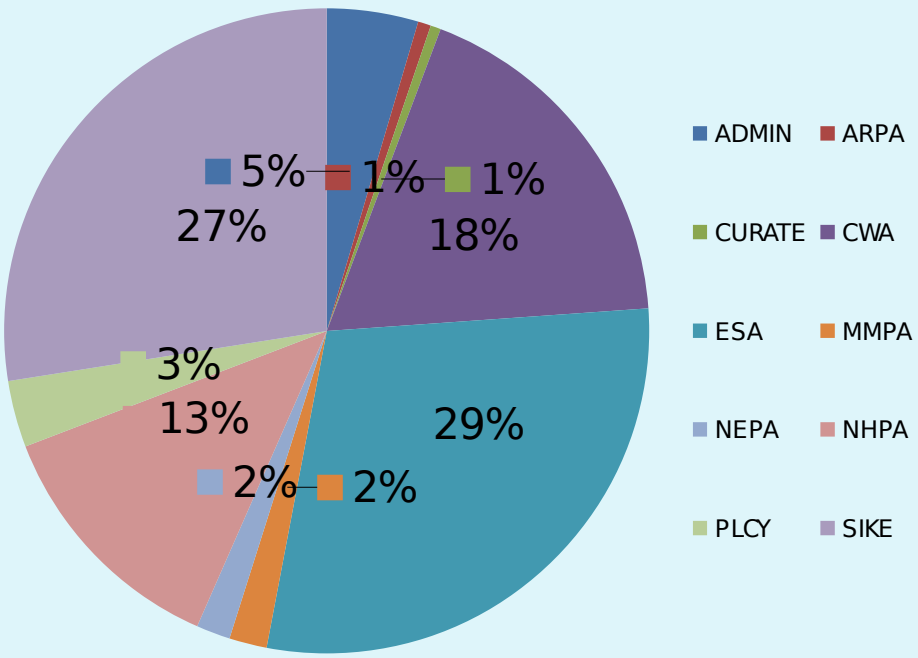
PB-28 Budget Element Revisions

Two Ways to Track Conservation Expenditures

Budget Expenses per PB-28 Code



Budget Expenses per Media, Law or Regulation



Tools and Training

Courses

- Sikes Act 101
- Sikes Implementation
- Endangered Species Act for DoD
- http://www.Dodworkshops.org/Training.html
- No additional OSD course offerings projected
- Future possibilities
  - Webinars?
  - Online?
  - SOPs ⇒available for Military Services to implement their own (March 31)
  - Updated DoDI?
- Strategic Management of Invasive Species in the NW
  - May 21-25
  - Portland, OR

2013 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference?

- Tentative Information
  - Orlando
  - July-August 2013
- http://www.smrconference.com
- Decision expected by end of March

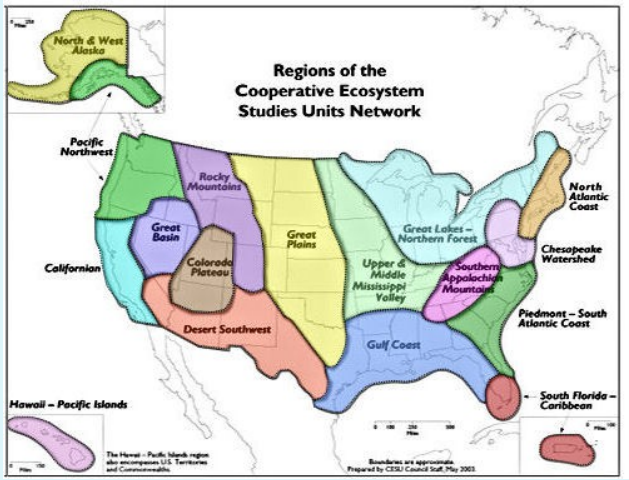
Partnerships

National Initiatives

- DoD Partners in Flight (PIF)
  - New fact sheets describe goals and priorities for eight key focus areas:
    - Stewardship
    - Partnerships/Cooperation
    - Communications
    - Habitat and Species Management
    - Monitoring
    - Research
    - Information and Education
    - BASH (in draft)
- DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)
  - Goal - Develop a DoD herpetofauna strategy that
    - Protects and sustains the military mission
    - Reduces and mitigates the threats to amphibians and reptiles on DoD lands
    - Raises public awareness
    - Helps support habitat management
    - Promotes the protection of ESA-listed and common species

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

- Currently a member of 14 CESU units
- New Regions for FY 2012
  - Pacific Northwest
  - Great Basin
- Ft. Worth District FY 2011 Support
  - 69 projects (60% increase)
  - $35.8M (135% increase)
  - Sliding scale fee

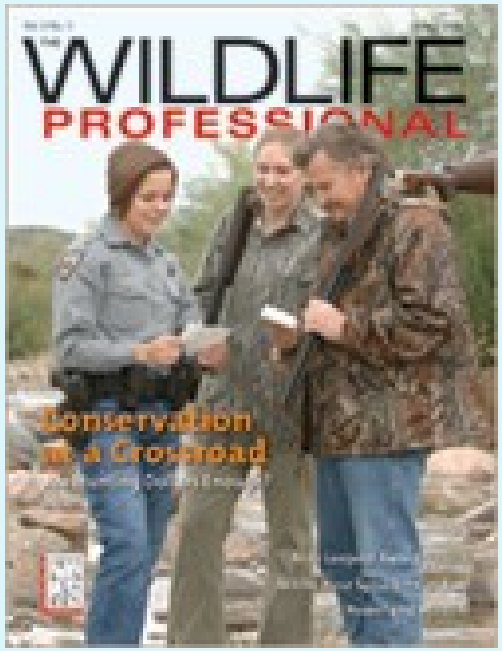


National Public Lands Day

- 41 DoD projects for 2011, 23 States
- 15 AR, 10 AF, 6 NV, 1 MC, 5 ARNG projects
- 11 projects featured on DoD's *Armed with Science*
  - **http://science.dodlive.mil/?s=NPLD**

The Wildife Society

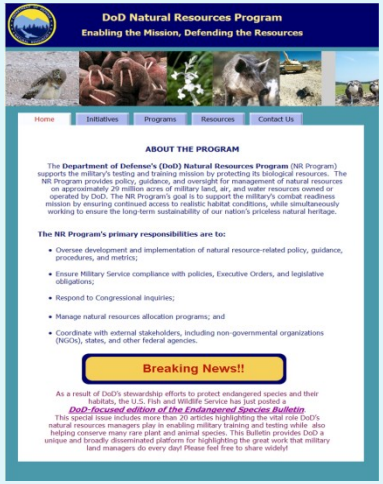
- New Military Working Group



It's Not Just a Job . . .Managing natural resources on military lands
By Alison Dalsimer, Leslie Catherwood, and Chris Franke

Program Awareness

Websites



- DoDNaturalResources.net
  - New NR program fact sheets
  - Links to initiatives, toolkits, partners
- DENIX.osd.mil/NaturalResources
  - Reorganization underway
- DoDLegacy.org
  - Final project fact sheets and products
  - Current projects
  - FY 2012 RFP: mid-April

Social Media

- DoD Facebook page
- DoD Blog
- Twitter - http://twitter.com/#!/DoDNatRes
  - Nearly 550 followers

NR Program Fact Sheets

- Natural Resources Program
- T&E Species on DoD Lands
- INRMPs
- Species at-risk
- Invasive Species and DoD
- Pollinators
- DoD’s response to Climate Change
- State fact sheets

Natural Selections

Natural Selections

Department of Defense Natural Resources Program

NEW!
DoDI 4715.03
14 February 2011

IN THE NEWS Feral Swine, Overrunning America

By Keith F Welton, Assistant State Director, Wildlife Services (TN/KY)

The recently updated DoD Instruction provides procedures for developing, implementing, and evaluating effective natural resources management programs at installations, i.e., the basic building blocks that natural resource managers can use to enable the mission, protect our precious natural heritage, and improve the quality of life for troops and their families. Refer to Naturally Speaking (p.2) for more information. The DoD Instruction also has been covered in the news. Peter Boice discusses it on The Pentagon Channel, Around the Services (April 22) as well as in blogs on DoD Live and Around with Science.

2011 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference

July 25-29, Nashville, Tennessee

Call for Posters Ends June 1!

Sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, this year's SMR conference will offer educational opportunities for DoD personnel and stakeholders interested in military training and testing, natural and cultural resources management, and sustainable and compatible land, air, sea, and frequency use. The agenda for the week features three dynamic plenary sessions, cross-cutting as well as track sessions, and more than 20 workshops.

For more information, visit www.smrconference.com.

Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) have earned a reputation as a destructive invasive species throughout the United States, with damage costs far exceeding their recreational benefits. The number of states with wild pigs has doubled in the last 20 years to more than 31 states reporting self-sustaining wild populations. The natural range expansion of existing herds continues to be augmented by the intentional (and often unlawful) relocation of animals for hunting purposes.

Estimating wild populations can be difficult, but the 1991 national estimate of 1 to 2 million pigs transformed to an estimated 1.5 million animals by 2003, in Texas alone. Wildlife Services (WS), a program within the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has seen similar population trends when responding to assistance with damage issues. About 6,000 feral swine were lethally removed from 10 states in 1999. By 2009, WS took more than 31,000 pigs from 28 states as part of its mission to safeguard agricultural, natural, and property resources as well as human safety.

Two characteristics of feral pigs contribute to their expansion: they breed prolifically and can thrive in nearly all North American habitats. Juveniles reach puberty at about 6 months, and adult females can have two litters annually of 5-8 piglets each. Groups of adult females and piglets, called sounders, roam territories leaving significant destruction in their wake. Sounders can decimate agricultural crops, manicured lawns, and sensitive ecosystems, seemingly overnight.

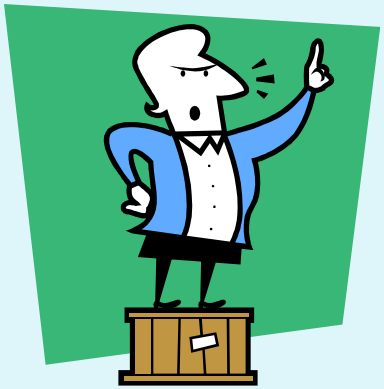
continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 – Feral Swine Damage Management
2 – Naturally Speaking
3 – Feral Swine Telemetry Study
4 – Navy Invasive Species Success Stories
5 – Army Tackles Lehmann Lovegrass
6 – Air Force Invasive Species Success Stories
7 – SERDP and ESTCP: Brown Tree Snake Initiative
7 – The Wildlife Society on Feral Cats
8 – Legacy Invasive Species Tools and Partnerships
9 – USGS Invasive Species Tools
10 – National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Did You Know?
11 – Training & Announcements
12 – Documents & Resources
14 – Links of Interest
15 – Contact Us

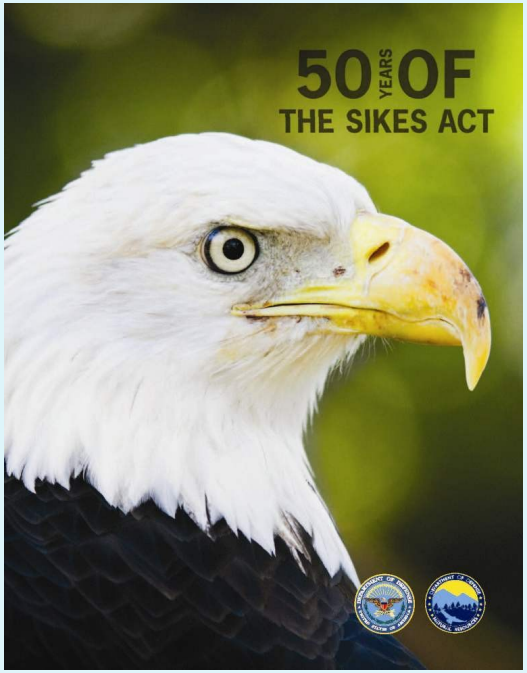
- Winter 2012 – Now Available!
  - Communications/Education
- Complemented by Natural Resources and Legacy “Blasts”
- Reorganizing the newsletter
  - One central comprehensive outreach document
  - Sections for DoD PIF, DoD PARC
- Seeking your feedback and contributions

Program Advocacy



Recent Publications

- *Endangered Species Bulletin*
- *Commander's Guide on Invasive Species*
- *50 Years of the Sikes Act*



Animation Videos

- The DoD Natural Resources Program
  - On display at the DoD Natural Resources booth
- DoD Responding to Climate Change
  - http://dodnaturalresources.net/Animation.html

Wildlife Trade Videos

- *Caught in the Crosshairs: Combating the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Iraq & Afghanistan*
  - Partnership with The Wildife Conservation Society
  - For more information and the full-length video, go to

    www.wcswlifetrade.org/military
  - For a link to the 5-minute version on WCS YouTube

    www.youtube.com/watch?v=zipNe0rnu3E

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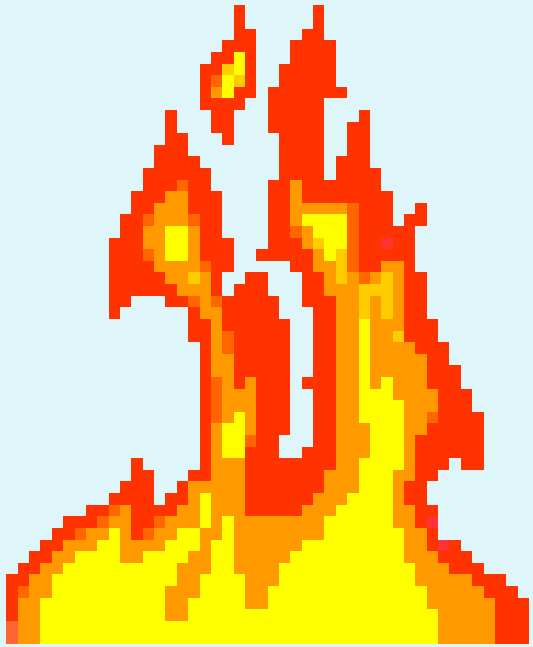
Current Hot Issues



Candidate Species Designations

- Multi-District Litigation Court Settlement for 251 Species by 2017
- Additional 506 species pending

Species of Greatest Potential Concern

- Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly (JB Lewis-McChord)
- Greater sage grouse (Mt. Home AFB and associated ranges; Nellis AFR)
- Yellow-billed cuckoo (locations for all Military Services in AZ, ID, NV, NM, UT))
- Red knot (Navy/Marine Corps East coast installations from MD to FL, including MCB Lejeune and MCAS Cherry Point))
- Streaked horned lark (Army and Navy locations in WA and OR)
- Washington ground squirrel (Army and Navy locations in WA and OR)
- Brand’s phacelia (Navy and Marine Corps locations in southern CA)
- Vandenberg monkeyflower (Vandenberg AFB)
- Gunnison’s prairie dog (Air Force Academy)

Steps Forward

OSD Natural Resources

- Continue to meet with USFWS to discuss priorities and timelines
- Work with Military Departments to standardize how they identify key interest species and potential mission impacts
- Provide updated consolidated list of key species to USFWS
- Establish policies and procedures to ensure Military Departments are actively managing the candidate species that pose the greatest risk to mission, including
  - Up-to-date Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans
  - Progress report at FY 2012 Environmental Management Review

Steps Forward

Military Departments

- Continue to evaluate the list of 251 species
- Ensure NR managers and mission trainers/ testers coordinate on identifying key issues
- Determine if installations have sufficient baseline information
- Ensure installations provide key species/habitat information to USFWS field and regional offices
- Screen the complementary list of 506 species to determine potential impacts

Climate Change Adaptation

- Source: Maureen Sullivan, Presentation to DC Conservation Community, March 8, 2012

What is DoD Doing?

- Investments: SERDP/ESTCP
  - Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Military Installations
  - Effects of Climate Change on Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Impacts on Southeast and Southwest Installations
  - Impacts on Defense Assets in Alaska
- Investments: Legacy Program
  - Species and Habitat Focused
  - Contributed to NWF's Scanning the Conservation Horizon, A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
- Participate in the National Climate Assessment (Sullivan)

What is DoD Doing?

- Managing for Mission and Habitat Needs
  - Enhancing mission safety
    - Bird Air Strike Hazard (BASH), erosion control, prescribed burning, invasives removal
  - Monitoring species/habitat trends
    - Coordinated bird monitoring, linear herp studies (e.g., Rte 66 disease study)
  - Promoting partnership-based conservation
    - DoD PIF, DoD PARC, NPLD, CESU
  - Restoring habitat
    - Longleaf pine, seed banking

What DoD Needs To Do

- Write DoD policy document
  - Needs to include top level message, process to conduct high level vulnerability assessment, and process to develop Adaptation Plan
- Answer CEQ's guiding questions
- Conduct high-level vulnerability assessment
- Identify major focus of DoD's Climate Change Adaptation Planning Efforts
  - Infrastructure? Water? Species and Habitat? Security?
- Identify which climate change scenarios we are going to use for conducting vulnerability assessments
  - DoD-wide? Regional? Installation? Project?

Summary

- New policies are out; others on the horizon
- OSD is expanding and improving its program oversight through EMRs and other processes
- Tools and resources are available (see Website)
- Even though we all face budget cuts, we're continuing to partner and advocate to address high priority issues

Questions?

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